(d) In view of the recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has already reduced the RSPs of the said sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country;

- Effective from 6.12.2008 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre; and
- Effective from 29.1.2009 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.25/- per cylinder.

Hike in prices of petroleum products

186. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of petroleum products were hiked in the past due to increase in international crude prices; and

(b) if so, the reasons for prices being not decreased in proportion to reduction in crude prices internationally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In June 2008, when the continuous rise in the international oil prices had resulted in mounting under-recoveries for the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on the sale of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, the Government had marginally increased the retail selling prices (RSPs) of Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.3/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.50/- per cylinder, with effect from 5.6.2008.

In view of the recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has reduced the RSPs of the said sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country:

Effective from 6.12.2008 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre; and

Effective from 29.1.2009 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.25/- per cylinder.

Taxation of petroleum projects

187. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is hopeful of resolving issues relating to taxation of petroleum projects with the Finance Ministry in a manner that would not affect investor sentiment for the bidding process of seventh round of New Exploration Licensing Policy;

(b) if so, whether issue was affecting investors and responses for NELP VII and the Petroleum Secretary has pointed out that experience shows that 85-90 per cent of the responses came in during first two days deadline for receipt of exploration bids; and

(c) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and to what extent it has been helpful?